1087—in English and in Malayalam—will, as usual, be placed in your hands. The Report should enable you to see how the administration was conducted during the year. It should also be useful to you in making your representations.

2. **Casualties.**—We lost by retirement or by death several of our high officers during the year. Early in Kanni 1087, Mr. K. P. Sankara Menon retired from the High Court Bench, and unfortunately died soon after. Mr. P. Ramakrishna Iyer, the Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate of Kottayam, retired in Vrischikam 1087, after a long service of over 33 years, spent wholly in the Executive line. In Kumbham 1087, Dr. Mitchell, the Director of Public Instruction, left on leave, and retired subsequently, after an efficient service of over 21 years in the Education Department. Major Bidie, I. M. S., whose services had been obtained on loan from the British Government for the Darbar Physicianship, left us in Medom 1087, on reversion to his own service. And lastly, I grieve to record the death, in Edavom 1087, of Mr. M. K. Ramachandra Rao, of the High Court Bench. A thoroughly blameless man and a very sound Judge, Mr. Ramachandra Rao will be long missed in the public service of Travancore. But good as he was as a Judge, he will probably be remembered, hereafter, even more for his excellent work in investigating into and reporting upon the Religious and Charitable Institutions of the State, than for his judicial work. The reforms which His Highness' Government have been introducing in these Institutions during the last four years would not have been possible but for Mr. Ramachandra Rao's arduous labours.

3. **Financial.**—Financially, the year 1087 was a prosperous one. The Receipts aggregated to Rs. 1,37,67,588, and the Disbursements to Rs. 1,34,54,991, with the result that there was a Surplus of Rs. 3,12,597, which raised the Government Balance from Rs. 72,65,453 to Rs. 75,78,050. The Revenues of the Government have, as you know, been rising for several years; the improvement continued in 1087, the Revenue of which exceeded that of 1086 by Rs. 9,58,390. The increase was under almost all heads, notably under Land Revenue (about 3 1/3 lakhs), Salt (over 1/3 lakh), Excise (about 2/3 lakh), Stamps (over 1 1/3 lakh), Registration (nearly a lakh), Mint (nearly half a lakh), Education (about 1/3 lakh) and Post or Anchal (over half a lakh). There was an inappreciable fall under Forest and Marine—less than Rs. 5,000 under each head. Under Customs, the fall (over Rs. 40,000) was nominal, being due to the circumstance that the compensation due from the British Government under the Interportal Trade Convention was actually realised and credited in the Darbar accounts only after the year had closed. Compared to 1086, the Expenditure of 1087 showed the very large increase of Rs. 15,93,033. The increased expenditure was contributed to mainly by His Highness the Maha Raja's tour to Delhi and the Murajapam ceremony, these two items accounting for Rs. 7,76,677, or about half the increase. There were increases under other items also, Public Works accounting for Rs. 2,12,000, Education Rs. 1,60,000, Law and Justice Rs. 1,09,000, Medical and Sanitary Rs. 83,000, and Stationery and Printing another Rs. 83,000. Of the fact that the financial position of His Highness' Government is now thoroughly satisfactory, there can be no stronger proof than the circumstance that, notwithstanding two extraordinary items such as the Murajapam and the trip to Delhi, and notwithstanding also the substantially larger outlay on so many Departments, notably Public Works, Educational, Law and Justice, and Medical and Sanitary, a surplus of over 3 lakhs was secured. The Government have therefore taken action towards starting the Sinking Fund for liquidating the Capital Liability of over B. Rs. 118 lakhs outstanding against them on account of the Shencotta—Quilon Railway. A sum of B. Rs. two lakhs

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will be paid to the credit of this Fund every year, and it is expected that, in 1945, when the Railway Debenture Loan falls finally due, the State will have the wherewithal to pay up the entire liability, and the Quilon—Shencotta Railway will then become wholly State property unencumbered by any debt. Also, in view to the present satisfactory financial condition, His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased to command that the Extension of the Railway to Trivandrum shall be constructed out of the funds of the Government. I need hardly say that there can be no better way of investing our surplus funds than in reproductive public works within the State.

4. **Departments of Revenue.**—Under Land Revenue, I would mention that the final report on the operations of the Settlement Department is now in the hands of His Highness' Government. Great credit is due to the Senior Dewan Peishkar, Mr. S. Padmanabha Aiyar, for having brought the Land Revenue Settlement to a satisfactory conclusion and for having prepared and submitted a comprehensive note on operations which have covered over a quarter of a century. The Forest Department continued to be managed efficiently by Mr. Rama Rao, and the Department of Salt, Excise and Customs by Mr. Raman Pillai. For fuller information in regard to the Revenue, I would refer you to Chapter III of the Report.

5. **Legislation.**—In the matter of Legislation, the year 1087 was a somewhat busy one, as you will see from a reference to page 27 of the Report. The Nair Bill was dealt with by the Council during the year. It became law after the close of the year. This Regulation meets, in the opinion of the Government, a much felt want, and as I have said elsewhere, I have every reason to think that it will be found a thoroughly workable measure and that it will conduce materially to improve the well-being of the Nair community.

I would draw the attention of the Christian Members to the fact that the Report of Mr. P. Cheriyan's Committee on the System of Inheritance and Succession among the Indian Christians was issued to the public in August last. His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased to command that the opinion of the Christian Members of the Assembly shall be taken on the feasibility of the suggestions made by the Committee.

A vacancy has arisen in the Legislative Council by the resignation a few days ago, by Mr. P. Kesava Pillai, of his seat in the Council. The Assembly Members of the Quilon Division will now meet, under the presidency of the Chief Secretary to Government, and recommend a person for His Highness' consideration in filling up the vacancy.

6. **Police.**—The administration of the Police Department was, on the whole, satisfactory. I would however again point out that Police work cannot really improve till public opinion co-operates effectively. The evil of the frivolous prosecution of policemen continued unabated. No less than 100 policemen were prosecuted during the year, of whom only 11 were convicted ; 14 were under trial when the year closed ; the remaining 75 were either discharged or acquitted. A scheme for the reorganisation of the Police Department was elaborated during the year. Its final passing and introduction belong, however, to 1088.

7. **The Jail Department.**—The administration of the Central Prison was not, I am sorry to say, quite up to the mark. The increase in the percentage of sick to strength, from 3 to 7, the rise in the daily average of sick, from 15 to 31, and the increase in the number of deaths, from 16 to 24, have attracted the serious attention

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